

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District

Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Corps to hold public scoping meeting for Indian Creek restoration project

Boise, Idaho – The Walla Walla District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the City of Caldwell, will conduct a public scoping meeting to solicit public and agency participation in the plans to study the feasibility of restoring Indian Creek in downtown Caldwell.

The meeting will be held Nov. 14 at Sacajawea Elementary School, 1710 N. Illinois, Caldwell, Idaho. There will be an open house 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a public scoping meeting 6:30-8 p.m., and an open house and discussion from 8-8:30 p.m. Information will also be available in Spanish.

The City of Caldwell requested assistance from the Corps to determine the feasibility of uncovering Indian Creek as it flows through the downtown area.

"Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, provides authority for the Corps to restore aquatic ecosystems. A project is accepted for construction after a detailed investigation shows it is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and provides cost effective environmental benefits," said Debbie Willis, project manager for the study.

The feasibility study will look at biological improvement opportunities of Indian Creek and the riparian area. Buildings and streets were constructed over the creek, covering it up in the downtown area in the 1950s. Restoration could consist of uncovering the creek and restoring the riparian area along the creek as it flows through the downtown area.

The feasibility study will focus on defining the problems and identifying potential solutions, costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of viable alternatives. The scoping meeting provides the public and agencies an opportunity to ask questions and identify issues and concerns for consideration during the study.

Written comments may be submitted during the public scoping period, Nov. 14 through Dec. 20. Submit comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Boise Office, P.O. Box 2780, Boise, ID 83701 or through the Corps website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/ic.

The Corps expects to complete the study in fall 2003. For more information call Willis at (208) 345-2065.